

Toward A Better Understanding of Epicurean Justice And Injustice (With Examples of "Just" and "Unjust")

Post by "Don" of March 26, 2021 at 11:04 AM

Before I dive into the last KDs on justice, I wanted to take a moment to review what is actually the connotation of the ancient Greek word translated as justice, right, etc: δίκαιος dikaios

Here the LSJ dictionary entry:

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?do...:entry=di/kaios>

Note that the basic meaning has to do with observing custom or rule, being well-ordered, abiding by the social rule, being civilized.

Speaking for myself, I have a cultural bias to think of justice - or better capital J Justice - or being Righteous had an abstract existence, some canonical measurements. This is less just than this because ABC parameters of the ultimate yardstick of justice are not met. Epicurus blows that idea out of the water. Using the word justice has sooo much cultural baggage in English.

Granted, the word took on similar connotations in Epicurus's day which is probably why he took so much of KDs to dispel that notion.

Please feel free to check out the LSJ entry and share any thoughts on what context we're dealing with using the English justice (and variants) to translate δίκαιος.